AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

These claims replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-referenced application.

1. (Currently Amended) A connector sleeve, comprising:

~~means for receiving a first end of a tubing assembly junction;~~

means for ~~engaging~~ encompassing a portion of a tubing assembly junction having a first end proximal to a first end of the sleeve and a ~~substantial~~ portion of a first tube proximal to the first end of the tubing assembly junction, the means for encompassing a portion of the tubing assembly junction enabling observation the tubing assembly junction within the length of the sleeve while securing the first tube to the tubing assembly junction; and

means for encompassing a portion of a second tube proximal to a second end of the tubing assembly junction, the means for encompassing a portion of the second tube enabling observation of the second tube within the length of the sleeve while securing the second tube to the tubing assembly junction

~~means for receiving a second end of a tubing assembly junction; and~~

~~means for securely coupling the tubing assembly junction wherein forces applied along the longitudinal axis of the tubing assembly do not result in disengagement of the tubing assembly at the junction~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein the means for ~~engaging~~ encompassing a portion of a tubing assembly junction comprises a housing with an aperture.

3. (Currently Amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein the means for ~~receiving a first end~~ encompassing a portion of a second tube comprises a housing with a slot.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein the means for ~~securely coupling~~ securing comprises a tapered inner surface of the housing.

6. (Currently Amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein the means for ~~securely coupling~~ securing comprises a restrictor.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The connector of claim 3, wherein the slot is substantially parallel with the longitudinal axis of the connector sleeve.

9. (Original) The connector of claim 6, wherein the restrictor comprises a plate.

10. (Original) The connector of claim 6, wherein the restrictor comprises a tab.

11. (Currently Amended) The connector of claim 8, wherein the housing forms a slot having a width that is smaller than the outer diameter of ~~an exit~~ the second tube of the tubing assembly.

12. (Original) The connector of claim 9, wherein the plate forms an inlet port having a width that is smaller than the outer diameter of an inlet tube of the tubing assembly.

13. (Original) The connector of claim 9, wherein the plate forms an inlet port having a width that is smaller than the outer diameter of a nipple of a coupler of the tubing assembly.

14. (Original) The connector of claim 10, wherein the tab is biased into the aperture of the housing.

15-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A connector sleeve, comprising:

~~a housing having an inlet port, an outlet port, and a tapered inner surface, wherein the housing is configured to closely surround and~~ a housing comprising:

a first portion that includes an aperture along the longitudinal axis of the sleeve and a restrictor that intrudes from the housing, the first portion configured to encompass a portion of a tubing assembly junction and contact a first end of ~~a~~ the tubing assembly junction; and

a second portion that includes a slot along the longitudinal axis of the sleeve and a tapered inner surface, the second portion configured to closely surround and contact a second end of the tubing assembly junction ~~a restrictor fixedly attached to the housing, the restrictor configured to engage a second end of the tubing junction~~.

21. (New) The connector sleeve of claim 20, further comprising:

a transverse wall forming an inlet port proximal to a first end of the sleeve, the inlet port configured to substantially surround a portion of the circumference of a first tube coupled to the tubing assembly junction.

22. (New) The connector sleeve of claim 21, wherein the transverse wall contacts the outer surface of the first tube.

23. (New) The connector sleeve of claim 21, wherein the inlet port has a width that is smaller than the outer diameter of a nipple of a coupler of the tubing assembly.

24. (New) The connector sleeve of claim 20, wherein the restrictor comprises a transverse wall that engages the first tube.

25. (New) The connector sleeve of claim 20, wherein the restrictor comprises at least one tab substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the connector sleeve.

26. (New) The connector sleeve of claim 24, wherein the at least one tab is biased into the aperture of the housing.

27. (New) The connector sleeve of claim 20, further comprising:

an outlet port proximal to a second end of the sleeve, the outlet port configured to substantially surround a portion of the circumference of a second tube coupled to the tubing assembly junction.